

6-14-26 Message

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SPEAKERS

Pastor Dow Boyer

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I was excited this week when I was in there, and I was like trying. I was well, I was excited but exhausted at the same time, but, but it was, I was very fortunate that I had Luke in my room, and that I know Landon was doing a great job with Bill, and so I was able to pull back a little bit this time and just watch others serve, and it was a blessing to me to be able to watch both Luke and Bill run the checkpoints, the last two checkpoints this year, and it was just that part was really encouraging. I was able to sit back and let Luke do what they call the talk time, or the time alone with God that we have in our bunks, which is really cool that we're able to do that, where inside our church, we can have kind of discussions, you know, in these small group times that line up with our doctrine. That's hard to find at a camp. I mean, it really, really is. I mean, we've got to.. it doesn't matter what camp we go to, there's not really a rightly dividing camp, and it's just.. there's not many options out there. So, you're kind of throwing out some bones, and you're always nervous a little bit when you go out there. So, anytime that we can have opportunities to be able to make sure that the doctrine is lining up, it's good for us. And so it was nice seeing the younger people be able to do that. That means that what we're doing here is working, and we're raising up some leaders, and that the future looks good. You heard Luke up here, and I hope one day he does become a pastor. That's his heart's desire. There's not many that have that desire anymore. And I love that he's doing that, and I'm thinking through this, and I was excited at kind of in that backseat. I was thinking all week long what I wanted to talk about on Sunday, and in the second to last night, the speaker stole my thunder, and I'm like, if I do this now on a Sunday, the kids are going to think I've ripped off the camp pastor, so I'm like, Lord, what are you giving me here? What am I going to do? So, so I'm going to try to go about this a little bit different direction than there, but I was so excited, and I was like, yeah, but I, they'll know, Lord, I'm going to just trust you on this one. So, anyway, those who've been following along with me from our Wednesday night group, I set a goal, and I was foolish enough to say it in front of everybody, but I said I was going to read the book of Ephesians 100 times, from the time we stopped Galatians to when we start our Ephesians study in the fall. So, I think I'm around 15 right now, or something like that, and so it's been good. But I picture all of you each day that feel like, oh, I'm really tired, just got back from camp, and everything, but I'm like, I made a commitment, so, and even there's there's a day where I missed one, so I was like, gotta read it twice tomorrow, so it was one of those things that I, I'm so glad that I said that out loud, because now I have to do it. The others of you, you guys should set goals like that too, and tell somebody, then you actually will achieve your goals. It's great, accountability is a blessing. So, but as I was going through Ephesians, one thing just kept sticking out to me over and over again. It was all these characteristics of what a lost person is. You know, so many times when we're like trying to share the gospel or we're trying to identify who's lost and who's not lost, right? It's just pretty much they got this characteristic right, they're lost, and if they

trust the gospel, they're saved, and that's true. That is 100% true. However, there is some reasoning behind why they are lost, and I think Acts 17 does a good job of trying to understand your audience, so that you can share the gospel, right? So I actually saw three Ephesians, you know. This gives me more understanding, and it helps me remember where I was and what the Bible says. People like me, before I'm saved, who I really was. It's not just the enemy of Christ, and I'm headed to hell for all eternity, but there are some descriptions about us. And what was interesting is, I kept reading three Ephesians. I'm like, man, it says a whole lot about what it means to be lost, because in order to show the difference of what it means to be saved, you have to realize what we were when we were lost. In fact, nobody gets saved without realizing that they are a sinner. What do you need to get saved from if you're pretty good? Do you need a savior if you've already got it figured out? Do you need somebody to come die for you if you're already right with God? Do you need something else to happen to make you right with God? No, the horrible nature of the gospel is before you have the good news, but the horrible part of about it is the bad news, and that we are sinners on our way to hell, and we've our sin has separated us from God, and we cannot get to God by ourselves. That's the reality. That's how it starts out. The good news only comes from the results of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and what He did on the cross, and what we believe about that. That's when there's good news. So I was going through here a little bit, and I thought this might help us to be more understanding when we are trying to share the gospel, and who we're trying to share the gospel to, I. Think right now in our culture it is so divisive that every time somebody posts something on social media you become triggered and you start hating the people that are posting things in opposition of what you believe and then you start the judgment process, because if they were involved in a protest or not, or because of this hair, because of what they post, and I know it's hard, it's hard, even for me, I mean, there's so many times it's like I've got the fingers are wanting to go, and I'm like, hey, I'm a pastor, I can't do that, and I'm just like, take it to my knees, take it to the Lord in prayer, right, but we find ourselves looking at somebody as an enemy and not looking at somebody as somebody who needs the gospel, and I think that's part of the reason we don't share the gospel, because subconsciously we think there's a lot of people in our lives that just won't hear it, won't believe it, really, you're wasting your time even telling them we say no before they even have a chance to say no, we have already guessed that they will not be saved, and so I thought it was encouraging this week that we're talking to young people, and the whole idea of camp is you, you young people, you're gonna go out and you're gonna share the gospel, and this is how you're gonna do it. And I thought that's the same thing that everybody in the body of Christ needs to hear, not just young people. I mean, I don't care if you're 80 or if you're 10, if you're saved, then you were left here to see all men saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, that's God's will, and God wants you to be an ambassador to share that truth, the true gospel that Jesus died on the cross and was buried, and three days later rose again, that His shed blood paid for the sins of all who would believe, if you just received that gift, that's left for every one of us. It seems like the growing trend in America is that you bring those people into a place like this, and it's my job, and only my job, to tell them about the gospel. And I think, wow, then there's going to be a lot of people standing before God one day, giving account of what they didn't do with what they were given at the judgment seat of Christ. Really, the goal on Sunday should be about us being edified together as the body of Christ. The work of evangelism and sharing the gospel should be done by you outside these walls. You don't need to be a pastor, you don't need to be having a doctorate or a bunch of initials after your name. You just have to be able to share the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and that gave our kids a lot of confidence this week, and I'm hoping it will you too, because sometimes we feel like unless I have this dynamic testimony where I was saved out of the horrible pit that nobody's ever going to listen. Every person who is saved is an unbelievable God-glorifying story. Because none of you could get there by yourself, it took the grace of God to save even

the best of people, it took the shed blood of Jesus Christ to pay the sin debt of even the most moral people in this country. So, tell me, is there not a better story of being able to tell somebody that I could not get to God, but God made provision through Jesus Christ, so I could get to Him, only by God, only by God's love, by sending Jesus to the cross, to the cross. That to me is a story worth telling. In Ephesians chapter two, we're going to go through several different places. Paul is addressing Gentiles, he's addressing people who had didn't have a religious past. In fact, he tells them quite often where they were in God's program before. He tells each and every person today that's reading the word of God, if you are not saved, this represents you and your disassociation with God. In Ephesians two one through three, he says, "You hath he quickened or made alive who were dead in trespasses and sins, wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience, among whom also we all had our conversation in times past, in the lust of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. Well, that's a big long list. If I had to summarize this quickly, it would be dead in trespasses and sin, walking according to the course of this world, according to the prince and power of the air, who works in the children of death. Obedience. This is what was being described. He said this wasn't merely just we were good people, we just didn't have enough information. He says this is who we were before, and it makes the story of who we are after that much more glorifying to God, because only God could have done it. You couldn't have. Few verses later, in chapter 11, or in chapter two, verse 11, it says, "Wherefore, remember that ye, being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who were called uncircumcision by that which is called the circumcision in the flesh made by hands. Now, this next verse here, I say, these are the five pillars of confidence that in time past you are without Christ, aliens from the Commonwealth of Israel, strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. Now that's not really confidence there at all, right? But that describes those who are not saved. Literally, there are people running around in our streets, our neighbors and our workplace who have no hope, who are without God in the world, and my fear, and we've talked about this several times over last year. My fear is we don't care, it's somebody else's job, it's the job of the guy getting paid, it's the job of the guy who's in front of you. There's nothing in scripture that says that. And in these verses we saw, without Christ, aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, strangers from the covenants of promise, no hope without God in the world, far off from God. In the next verse, because it says in Christ Jesus, ye who were sometimes far off were made nigh by the blood of Christ. This is our audience. This is what our audience is described as: dead in trespasses and sin, walking according to the course of this world, according to the prince and power of the air, children of disobedience, without Christ, aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, strangers from the covenants of promise, no hope without God in the world, far off from God. That is who needs to hear the message. And when you start looking at how they are characterized in here, it should give you more of a burden of how lost people really are if they are not saved. Ephesians 2:19 says, for you are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God. So here we see strangers and foreigners added to the list. None of this says, ah, they're just pretty good, they're pretty close. All this shows a real disconnect from God and lost may be too loose of a term to be honest with you. In Ephesians 4:17 through 19, we got a couple more of these passages. It says, 'This I say, then, therefore, and testify the Lord that you henceforth walk not as other gentiles walk. So he's going to describe how lost Gentiles walk, he says, in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance, and we're going to come back to that word that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart, who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lasciviousness to work all uncleanness with greediness, so now it describes some of their behavior, it was their standing before, but now the behavior of the lost walks in the vanity of their mind with their understanding darkened, alienated from the life of

God, ignorance that is in them, given over to this uncontrollable lust and working that out in all uncleanness and greediness, isn't that what you see in society? It's a cry for help from people who need God. It's the working out of what the loss and the lust of the flesh does. Ephesians five five and six says this: ye know that no whoremonger nor unclean person or covetous man whose idolater hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words, for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience, and these deal kind of with those behaviors that he was talking about, and I was thinking about this this week, that it is so easy to look at all those things there, and it just feel like it's not worth your time, but Where would any of us be if we weren't worth somebody's time. Where would you be if somebody didn't take the time to share the gospel with you? Would you have ever heard it? Now I know that's going to be difficult for some of you, because I quote. True has changed so much, or I've been doing this so long, I don't even know how to talk to these people that are different than me. My thought is, you figure it out. The same love that God had towards sinners in Romans five eight, that He committed His love toward, is what we should be doing towards those who are without Christ, you and I hope our kids set the example this week. I hope they take the challenge, and I hope that their goal moving forward is to share the gospel and share their story, realizing it's God's story, not their story, but that you guys don't let them outrun you, and that you set an example for them, and that we're coming back, and we're saying, "Hey, guess what happened this week? So and so got saved. Let me introduce you to this person I was working with. Him, we had a Bible study at my house, I shared the gospel, they got saved. Now I can't wait to introduce you to them, right. And then we, and then we even have times where we have upstage, or up here on the stage, where we're recognizing the work that's being done, and people are being saved, and we can do it without water, but we can celebrate it, right? I mean, that that's what I think God's will is, right? Just have all men saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. We don't realize just how far off people are. Maybe it's because we've been close for so long that we have forgotten, and it's my prayer that we don't forget that Acts 17:23 - not going to use much facts, somebody else already did last week, but anyway, this is a great passage, it really is, but in verse 23 Paul says, for I passed by and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with the inscription to the unknown God, whom therefore you ignorantly worship. Him declare I unto you. Seven verses later, he says, The times of this ignorance God winked at, but now commendeth all men, commandeth all men everywhere to repent. Now, remember in Ephesians 4:18 Paul described the law, saying, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart. This word ignorant means lack of knowledge, especially of divine things or moral blindness. In the Webster's 1828 it talks about want or absence of destitution of knowledge, the negative state of the mind, which has not been instructed yet. The verb form of it adds to it not to know through lack of information or intelligence, and the reason I'm saying all this is that we have to understand that the reason people are lost the majority of time is they do not have the information necessary to be saved, so they are ignorant, they don't understand this. Now, there are those who know the information and just reject it, but the majority of people do not know the information, so they are in ignorance. And what you see in a lot of them is they are trying to do something, they are trying to believe in something with the best that they can with the information that they have. Another, I'm thinking about a couple of ways that Paul has used this verse, or this word in the verb form. He says in Romans 11:25 I would not, brethren, have you, or that you should be ignorant of this mystery. So he's telling the Romans, you have no knowledge of this mystery. Then he tells them what this mystery is. Let you should be wise in your own conceits, that blindness in part happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. Or another place we think about these great verses with the rapture in First Thessalonians 4:13 he says, I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, so I'm not having to be without knowledge on what I'm about to tell you concerning them which are asleep, that you sorrow not, even as

others with no hope. So we have to ask ourselves, why are people ignorant? Why are people without knowledge? It's the system, it's the evil world system. I was researching this this week, and this I found interesting. It says 1000s of podcasts are specifically dedicated to finding peace of mind, mindfulness, and mental clarity. Platforms host a massive rotating variety of shows, ranging from daily guided meditations to psychological deep dives. They are looking, but they are ignorant, and we're not giving them the information. People are looking. It's one thing we tell them on Mars Hill, he goes, I perceive that you are too superstitious. Us, it wasn't that those at Mars Hill weren't looking, but they were looking in the wrong place based on the information they had. They were looking to the unknown god. Paul says, I'm going to declare to you who the god is. I'm going to give you information because you have been worshiping ignorantly because you don't have the information. Who gives the information today? If not us, I think about this in Paul's conversion in Acts chapter nine, verses one through three. Actually, I just skipped a whole big chunk of things. I'm sorry. Back it up, trying to get on the flight already. All right, so all this is emphasizing mind reset and finding peace. What do you think can offer that today? What gives you peace of mind and peace today? What gives your mind peace today? What did you find that gives you that? Well, you'd say, I found Christ, I believed in the gospel, I now have the word of God, right? And everybody from all these podcasts are looking for the very thing that you have right now, and you have it, and you can tell them where to get it from, but will you? But there's a system that wants to keep everybody distracted. Second Timothy four three through five says, if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost, and whom the God of this world, now here's the plan, right, the God of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, shine unto them. There's a whole system set up to allow people to go searching for answers in darkness, the system is designed to keep the light of the glorious gospel away from people who are in darkness. The very thing they need to be able to see is being hid from them in all the programming of this world, in this evil world system, and when we don't share the gospel, then there is no light, because it says in Second Corinthians four six says God, who command the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, I think this is interesting, because in Paul's conversion story he was a man walking in ignorance, as he's going to describe later, and he was walking in darkness, in fact it was the light that started this whole conversion process. Acts nine one through three, it says, Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest and desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, and if he found any of his way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. Now I just want to stop there for a second. This is an important point that I'm about to make. If there was ever an indication in Scripture that's not about getting cleaned up to come to Jesus, it is Paul. We literally have records of what Paul was on the road to do before his conversion, and there are many people in this world that think that they have to do certain things in order to walk through church doors. I need to get cleaned up first before I can go through those doors. I got to get cleaned up before I can get saved. They are basically believing a false gospel that works has something to do with their salvation, Paul was in darkness. He was being ignorant of this light, right? Lack of knowledge of Christ. At this point, he thought it was fake. He's persecuting other people who are following this. He's being very militant. He's being very religious at this point. He's not on his way, looking for Jesus, he didn't know he needed it. Oh, but did he get it? Verse three says, as he journeyed, he came near Damascus, and suddenly there shined round about from him a light, a light from heaven. Isn't it interesting that Paul would later say that there's a God of this world who's keeping everybody in darkness, lest the light of the glorious gospel shine unto them. Paul was speaking from experience. He understood his life, right? He knew that it was a light that changed everything. It was the gospel that invaded Paul's life when he wasn't looking for it, and it changed everything, and it didn't give him prosperity, it

didn't give him popularity, it gave him a lot of suffering, hard heartaches, hardships. It, but it gave him a heavenly focus. So, with this, First Timothy 11:2 through 13 says, I thank Christ Jesus, our Lord, who hath enabled me, and He had counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry. Paul says, This is who I was before I was a blasphemer, a persecutor, injurious, but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. He did not have the necessary knowledge and did not place his faith in this knowledge, so he said I was ignorant that Christ was truly the Messiah, that Christ was truly God, that what they were talking about with Christ until he had an encounter with Christ, and it changed everything. In a couple verses later, he says this: this is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. How be it for this cause I obtain mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show forth all long suffering for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on Him to life everlasting. And guess what, you, if you are saved, followed a pattern, and that pattern was I had nothing to bring to the table. It was 100% by the grace of God that I can have a right relationship with God, and it has everything to do with the fact that Jesus died on the cross for my sins, taking my punishment, taking my sin debt, and he rose again, proving that he's God, and I received that gift today, and I am saved. That was the pattern that each and every one of you followed, Paul's pattern here. If you are saved today in this dispensation of grace, it's because you followed that pattern, but a pattern is meant to be repeated, and it wasn't meant to stop with just you. It was meant for other people to follow the pattern that you were following. That is the premise behind sharing the gospel, telling that story. Even Solomon, in a different dispensation was able to say in Proverbs, he says, "He that winneth souls is wise. It would be a shame to spend your whole life as a believer, and to be able to stand before the Lord and say that I didn't share the gospel once, but thank you for what you gave me. I'm thankful for his grace that you could still be in that position, but there will be embarrassment and loss. We won't give an account for our sins at that point, but I think it's we will give an account for something like that. What did you do with what he had given you? What foundation did you build off of? Did you share the gospel with anybody? Is my hope that these kids actually go out and do it, and that you are going out and doing it, and you guys are challenging one another. Just like I had to stand up, right? I want some accountability. I had to stand up and say, I'm going to read the book of Ephesians 100 times before I present it, and now I have that accountability. I wonder, how many people in here are going to say I'm going to share the gospel 10 times before the summer's up, one time before the summer is up. I wonder how many people would be willing to take that challenge, raise their hand, proclaim it, and tell everybody in here that that's my goal. Pray for me, and that we, as we, as a group here, try to do that. What does this start looking like if we start going out and sharing the gospel? People are searching. It doesn't matter if your story seems vanilla or bland, because it's God's work. We're either planting or watering, but it's God who gives the increase. It's the light of the glorious gospel that is dynamic, and it is the thing that in darkness is the only thing that's going to give people light. People have no hope, they have no peace, no anchor, even today while they're suffering. And we have an answer. We have to tell them, not just the students, but all of us. We have to share the gospel, and so my plea for the body of Christ here at Grace Point is that we will share the gospel, and that the students will do what they've been tasked to do, the others will do what they're tasked to do, and that we will see our family members, our neighbors, our coworkers all be saved, and we will execute God's will of seeing all men saved and come to the knowledge of truth, but we've got to get them saved first. Then we've got to grow them up. We've got to grow them up in the right doctrine and the right faith, right? Will you be outdone by the young people who are committing to this? Will you guys hold each other accountable? Will you set some goals? Goals. That's my challenge for you today. I'm going to have everybody stand, and we'll pray here. Dear Heavenly Father, Lord, we just come to you right now. Lord, I was reflecting on the first night of camp, how I went to camp exactly one time as a young person. I was 17 years old, but it was like the third night of camp that I got saved. I

wonder where I would have been if somebody didn't tell me. Would I have stumbled across it? I don't know. I have no idea. Was also sharing with them the first person that I least remember that I shared the gospel with, that actually got saved, was a young girl who ended up passing away two years later, and I always wonder, what if I wouldn't have shared it with her? I'll never know the answer to that, but Lord, I'm grateful that she did get saved, Lord. There are people dying and going to hell. I know there's a lot of things going on this world, but none of them touch eternity. Lord, I pray that we would have eyes to see people as lost souls and not as enemies. It's not about being right or left, liberal, conservative, Gen Z versus Gen X, Lord. It is about souls, Lord. It is about people that that Jesus died for, and I pray that we would see that in people, and it would start with not maybe knowing all the answers, but just sharing what happened to them, and how they place their faith alone in the death, burial, and resurrection. Jesus, excuse me, Jesus Christ, just as Paul described in Acts 22 as he's defending himself and sharing his testimony. Everybody in here has a story to tell about when they got saved. Give them the courage to start with that. Help us have eyes to see our neighbors, our coworkers, our family members, our loved ones who are lost on their way to hell, that we would give them the hope that they're so desperately looking for. I pray that, Lord, we would start, that the young people would start something here, Lord, that would, that would impact this church for generations. Well, we just pray that we would be good at seeing all people saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth, and that this community we would win for you. But we love you and praise you in Jesus' name. Amen.